(b) if so, the details in this regard ; and

(c) the progress so far made in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The present policy of the Government of India is to consider the question of establishment of a High Court Bench in the light of broad principles and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission, after a proposal has been received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No change in this matter has been made so far.

Review of cost audit reports

999. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of cost audit reports reviewed by the Ministry during 1992-93 and 1993-94 ;

(b) what were the companies and products involved in such reviews and what were the findings of the Ministry in each case ;

(c) what is the follow-up acton taken on each cost Audit Report and in what way such action has been beneficial to the companies and the consumers ; and

(d) what steps have been taken to strengthen the system of Cost Audit and also to widen the scope ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The details of cost audit reports reviewed by the Cost Audit Branch during 1992-93 and 1993-94 indicating the names of companies and products involved are given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 23). The findings of review of Cost Audit Reports includes cases of disproportionate increase in prices, under utilisation of capacity, inefficiency in the usage of raw materials, deficiency in the maintenance of cost records, inaccuracies in the reported cost data etc. These issues have been taken up with the concerned Ministries, cost auditors and the companies and the follow-up action (is) taken in each case. Audit of cost records serve as a positive aid in cost control and cost reducton. The information available through this source helps the Government to find out whether the benefits of tarrifs and other concessions are being passed on to the consumers and they are getting products at reasonable price.

(d) The cost audit of companies has been made annual from the financial year 1993-94. It has been extended to the small scale industrial undertakings whose annual turnover exceeds Rupees ten crores. Some new products which have been covered under the Cost Accounting Record Rules are Fertilizers, Insecticides (Technical Grade), Soaps & Detergents and Cosmetics & Toiletories.

***Detection of Manipulations in the costs* and prices by MRTPC**

1000. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any manipulations in the costs and prices have been detected in the last three years by the MRTP Commission ; and

(b) if so, the details of those cases and the final conclusions thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The number of res-

trictive and monopolistic trade practice enquiries instituted and disposed off by the MRTP commission during last three years is as under :—

Year	Restrictive Trade practice enquiries		Monopolistic Trade practice enquiries	
	Instituted	Disposed off	Instituted	Disposed off
1990	131	161	—	—
1991	55	296	—	—
1992	151	75	5	2

Details of enquiries relating to restrictive trade practice which has the effect of manipulation of prices are not maintained separately by the MRTP Commission. Compilation of such details, including the final conclusion, will be a voluminous task and the time and labour involved in doing so will not be commensurate with results achieved.

Legislation on electoral reforms

1001. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any move to move legislation on Matters concerning electoral reforms in this session ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission been pressing for a De-limitation Commission ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir (b) and (c) The Election Commission in Ferbuary, 1992 had recommended for amendment of the Constitution to provide for fresh delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 1991 census without affecting the total number of seats allocated to various States on the basis of 1971 census. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and pending for consideration in Lok Sabha already seeks to make changes in the Constitution as suggested by the Election Commission. A legislation for providing for a Delimitation Commission can be brought forward only after the aforesaid Constitution amendment becomes an Act.

Foreign Affiliates of Indian Companies

1002. SHRI ASHOK MITRA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Indian companies in which foreign affiliates have increased their share-holding since July 1991 through 'special rights issues' ;

(b) the terms of such special rights issues Vis-a-Vis the terms offered to other shareholders ; and

(c) whether such special rights issues conform to the principle of equity as between shareholders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and The details of Indian Companies in which their foreign affiliates have been permitted to raise foreign equity during the period from August, 1991 to September, 1993 are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No 24]

(b) and (c) Sub-section (IA) of Section 81 of the Companies Act, 1956, *inter-alia*, empowers a public company to offer further shares to any person (whether existing member or any other person), in any manner whatsoever, if a special resolution to that effect is passed by the company